

LANTERN

LANTERN 21 ++++++ SPRING 1978

introduction

Every few months a crisis of one sort or another seems to hit LANTERN! This time it involves our trusty (and antiquated old duplicator) which has churned out issue after issue of Lantern without complaint. Alas, it has suddenly given up the ghost without hope of repair (so the manufacturers tell us). However, undaunted we are taking steps to get it repaired locally, so fingers crossed! Fortunately, in situations such as this some helpful person comes along and sticks his finger in the dyke, so to speak. This time it was Mike Burgess who made arrangements to get this issue printed on his firm's machine, at R. Harrod Ltd, Net Manufacturers, Horn Hill, Lowestoft. Thanks Mike and thank you Mr. Harrod. It seems possible that getting the duplicator repaired might be a bit costly, and so we are holding a book 'bring and buy sale' for BSIG Members in the near future. Contributions of books would be welcomed, preferably on some 'borderline science' subject. Please, we need your help, send donations to 3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft.

This edition of Lantern is basically a special 'Aerial Phenomena' issue, with the emphasis being on UFOs and the like. It's not very often that I, as Editor, voice my personal feelings on any particular subject but I thought I'd like to have my 'tuppence-worth' regarding the film 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind'.

Actually, it's not the film that I particularly want to mention, (only a fool would comment upon something he hasn't seen!) but the publicity it, and UFOs in general, have been given in the popular precs lately. I think almost everyone involved in UFO research would agree that over the past few years, the climate of opinion has moved away from the ETH theory and 'visitors from space' (benevolent or otherwise!) and closer to the realisation that UFOs represent only one aspect of a much wider, and deeper, phenomena. Unfortunately, just as these ideas are gradually becoming known to the public, along comes CE3 and the attendant, sensational publicity from the 'popular' press with all their talk of 'flying saucers', 'spacemen' and the such-like, which will more than likely set the UFO Research clock back 10 years. After reading all the newspapers' comments and theories on the subject of UFO's, the public will no longer be able to view the film with an open mind, but with one full of the un-informed opinions of the press. No matter how good the film is, somehow I can't see it combating that!

As for the film itself, comment on that I'll leave until I see it. Somehow I can't help feeling that the money used in the making of it would have been better spent financing UFO research itself. Finally, I'll bet a pound to a penny that after the film goes out on general release in the UK, UFO sightings and reports will soar and 1978 will become another 'flap' year!... 'Nuff said.

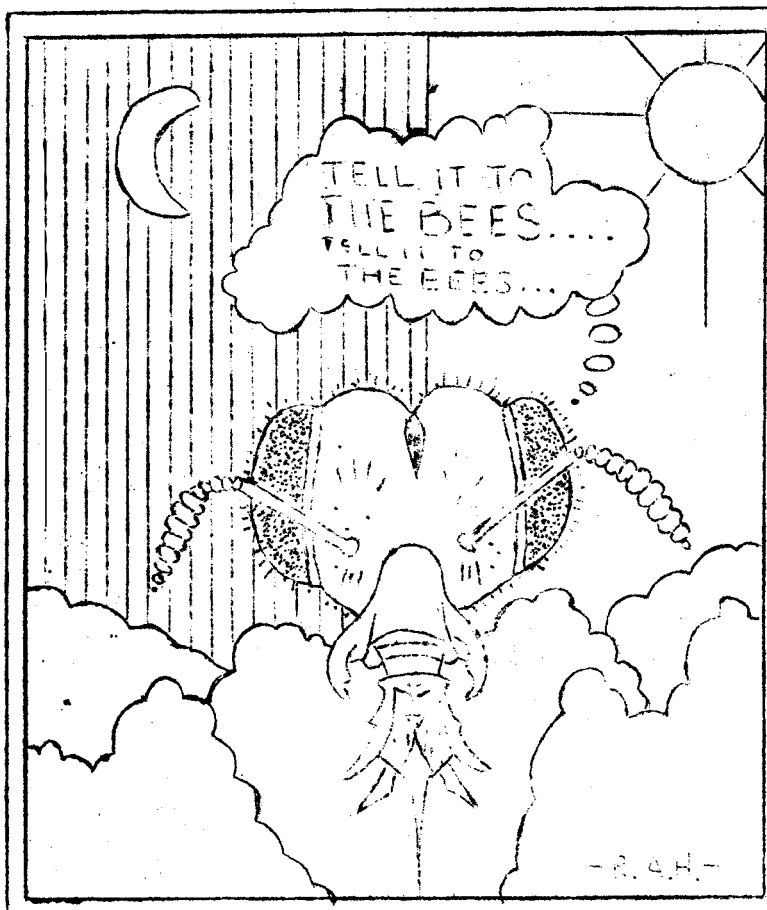
I. Bunn, Editor.

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In the rural areas of not-so-very-long ago, the bee held quite an esteemed position in the economic welfare community. Many hives were kept; great value being placed upon the beeswax and honey. A whole mythology grew up around the bees and for generations developed and diversified until, alas, the advent of the mechanised world put paid to all such irrational beliefs. This brief article will, I hope, remind us of some of the superstitions associated with bees, now largely forgotten.

From ancient Greek times, bees have been regarded as messengers of the Gods, the link between the material world and the divine manifestations. Thus they are said to be the carriers of the human soul on its final voyage, and hence the almost universal practise of 'telling the Bees' when a death had occurred (more of this later).

Their origins were Christianised in an ancient Breton Belief

that states that bees were born of the tears of Christ, shed whilst dying on the cross. This probably relates to the fact that in English lore bees are said to sing sacred songs on the true Christmas Eve. Old folk swear that the true Christmas eve can be thus determined by listening patiently at the hive.

It was always thought (and not without reason) that bees were intelligent and peace-loving creatures, and would not tolerate quarrelsome families or cursing keepers. In more recent times science has demonstrated that the bee is indeed sensitive to the intonations of the human voice. A Bedfordshire legend states that if the hive is not doing very well, a sure-fire remedy is to sing Psalms in front of it.

Beeswax was considered to be vital for church candles and particularly those use at funerals. Further quasi-religious myths warn that only on a Good Friday may a bee-hive be removed. That, according to our ancestors, the bee is somehow with intelligence and divine connections, cannot be in doubt, perhaps it can all be explained by the, then unknown, fact of the 'dance' worker bees indulge in to communicate the locality of prime pollen areas and, as already mentioned, their response to the human voice.

Throughout Northern Europe, it was considered wise to communicate to the bees news of any event in the lives of the people around, particularly of a death or a wedding. In the case of a death an iron door key would be knocked three times on the hive, which would be tied with black crepe then, perhaps, a simple rhyme would be recited:

"Little bee your master is dead,
Leave me not in my necessity."

Usually spiced funeral cake and sugar, or a biscuit soaked in wine, was left. Another rhyme sometimes spoken was:

"Bees, bees, awake,
Your master is dead,
And another you must take."

In the event of a wedding, again the hive would be decorated, the bees informed and offered wedding cake. This would ensure that the wedding party did not get stung.

Swarming bees developed an exclusive lore: If an unknown swarm arrived on

ones property it was considered a bad omen, and likely that the owner would die. If the swarm settled on the roof of the house it would catch fire; or if on a decayed tree, a death would occur within the year. In Norfolk it was considered a good sign if a swarm flew near a flock of sheep, as this would ensure a good lambing. A rhyme describes the values of swarms in different seasons:

"A swarm of bees in May,
is worth a load of hay.
A swarm of bees in June,
is worth a silver spoon.
A swarm of bees in July,
is not worth a fly.

It is not surprising then to learn that attempts were made to control the swarming bees, by dipping an Elder branch in sugar and water and waving it over a newly-established hive; or by rubbing the hive with mint. When a swarm did occur, regardless of where the mass flew, it was considered quite lawful to follow and attempt to bring them to rest by tapping a metal pan. In Suffolk this was known as Tinging or Tanging the bees.

Finally, there are many omens and signs associated with lone bees: If a solitary bee flies into the house, expect a visitor: If a bee alights on ones hands, money can be counted upon to arrive shortly. In Scotland, they say, the first bee of a new season was captured by intrepid Scotsmen and placed in the purse to ensure an increase of wealth. Be that as it may, it was considered very unlucky to exchange bees for money or even to talk about it in their presence. Goods traded were the only acceptable form of exchange. If stolen, bees it was said, would never survive. Finally, great store was placed in the Queen bee's sting as a cure for rheumatism, modern technology has discovered more than mere folk-lore in this, as certain curative properties have been isolated from the sting. One begins to wonder what else might one day be proved true...And now I'd better buzz off!!

R.A.Haxell.

BOOKS USED:

- 1).EVANS, George Ewart 'The Pattern Under The Plough', Faber & Faber, 1966.
- 2).NEWALL, V 'Discovering the FOLKLORE of Birds & Beasts', Shire, 1971.

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+ + + + + BOOK REVIEW + + + + +
+ HANDBOOK OF PSI DISCOVERIES by S.Ostrander & L.Schroeder. Abacus, £1.95. +
+ This is a bumper volume of do-it-yourself psi experiments for the amateur +
+ with lots of enthusiasm but little or no scientific equipment. As the authors +
+ say, the book asks more questions than it answers, written in such a way as to +
+ get the reader to devise and conduct his own experiments in the paranormal. +
+ Giving a wide variety of subjects, from Kirlian photography to the electro- +
+ nic voice phenomenon; from bio-communication in plants to the pyramid effect, +
+ the authors first give the reader a history of the particular phenomenon and +
+ progress made so far by the leading researchers in that field, then go on to +
+ describe variations on the original experiments suitable for the amateur to try. +
+ Throughout the book original sources of information are quoted, and there is +
+ a section included at the end listing further sources where technical and other +
+ information may be found. +
+ This book is very interesting to the casual reader, if only to demonstrate +
+ how much has been achieved and how much is yet to be discovered; but its main +
+ worth is with the amateur researcher with an inquiring mind. +
+ KW +
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CAN ANYONE HELP? I am trying to get together details of the May Day customs and celebrations which took place in the Lowestoft area up to the Second world War. If you can remember them, or perhaps your parents or grandparents can, I would be very interested to hear about them. Please drop me a line at:
3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4RZ. Thanks...Ivan A. W. Bunn+++++

A QUESTION OF DEFINITIONS *

Like all true borderline sciences, the subject of UFOs is usually treated with a sense of mysticism by those generally unaware of the present situation. This different form of viewpoint to that of researches is to be expected as not everybody is actively interested in unexplained phenomena. But everybody is curiously interested, and when hearing people talking about UFOs, nearly everyone has had a experience of some kind or the other, or knows someone else who has. There is also a 'general theory' to account for such strange phenomena, a theory which once planted, grows in the public's mind no matter how inconsistent or improbable it might be. Further 'evidence' simply confirms the theory.

For instance, in the case of UFOs, the general public's view is that IF they exist then they are probably extra-terrestrial visitors. How often have we heard that well-worn argument involving the probabilities of life elsewhere in the universe?... (yawn)... The argument, while giving good odds (well, relatively) to the existence of intelligent life elsewhere, goes no way to proving that this is in fact where the UFOs are from.

The public are not really to blame however, as the idea has been extensively perpetrated by the media. Although the local press seem to be quite reasonable when writing about UFOs, the national press seem to sensationalise the subject somewhat; as if something as mystifying and unpredictable as the UFO phenomenon needed to be sensationalised to sell newspapers! One typical example appeared in a national daily this week (February 21st), when it explained the meaning of a Close Encounter of the third kind as, "Contact with alien beings from space", when Dr. Hynek's classification, "A sighting of a UFO made in the immediate vicinity of the witnesses in which entities, humanoids or UFO-nauts are reported", appeared on the preceding page.

UFOs are not alone either; consider the subject of 'ghosts'. The pet theory here is that IF they exist, then they are probably the spirits or souls of the deceased. How often have we heard that other, well worn argument, for the survival of life after physical death, with its accompanying 'evidence'?

The root of all this (possible) mis-interpretation is the word 'UFO' or 'ghost'. In the case of UFOs, what exactly is the definition of the word? This is a major point which needs to be cleared up, as listeners to (and participants in!) Bob Morrell's interesting lecture at the 1977 NUFON Conference will agree!

Dr. Edward Condon, of the University of Colorado UFO Project fame, defined a UFO as, "The stimulus for a report made by one or more individuals of something seen in the sky (or an object thought capable of flight but seen when landed on Earth) which the observer could not identify as having ordinary origins, and which seemed to him sufficiently puzzling that he undertook to make a report of it."

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Director of the Centre for UFO Studies in America, was more critical in his definition of the word. He defined a UFO as, "The reported perception of an object or light seen in the sky, or upon the land, the appearance, trajectory and general dynamic and luminescent behaviour of which do not suggest a logical, conventional explanation and which is not only mystifying to the original percipients, but remains unidentified after close scrutiny of all available evidence by persons who are technically capable of making a common sense identification, if one is possible."

Dr. Hynek's definition seems to be the best one to adopt, after all, his UFO classification system seems to be well used by most researchers nowadays, and the UFO 'jargon' will be well presented to the public by the forth-coming film and its associated publicity.

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THANKS ARE EXTENDED TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SENT IN ARTICLES FOR LANTERN. PLEASE KEEP THE MATERIAL COMING IN AS IT HELPS TO PLAN AHEAD FOR FUTURE EDITIONS. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE SENT TO THE EDITOR, 3 DUNWICH WAY, OULTON BROAD, LOWESTOFT NR32 4RZ.

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE

During the year of 1890, Lowestoft was visited by two, very similar astronomical curiosities, both of which were reported in the Lowestoft Journal. The first of these was seen Sunday, March 15th. The Journal report tells us that:

About 9 o'clock on Sunday night, the attention of numbers of the inhabitants who happened to be out of doors, was directed to a sudden blaze of light, which appeared to envelope them where they were walking or standing at the time. On looking upwards, they found it to proceed from a splendid meteor, rapidly shooting across the heavens from a southwesterly to a north-easterly direction. It continued its flight for several seconds, having traversed a distance of something like 20 degrees. It then suddenly exploded into several fragments, leaving behind a trail of faintish whitey-blue light. A sea-faring correspondent, who has followed his profession for aquarter of a century, informs us he has witnessed many similar appearances, but nothing at all approaching the present phenomenon, which he was priveleged to behold.

The second object was also seen on a Sunday evenin, on December 13th, and a correspondent sent the following letter to the Journal:

Coming home on Sunday evening in the company of one or two friends from the country, we had just passed the cemetery, about 9.45pm, when the entire neighbourhood appeared to be suddenly brilliantly illuminated. One of our number called out - "There's a fire"; but, looking upwards, we found the sky was literally lit up by a magnificent meteor, which was then rapidly sailing in a westerly direction. We detected three distinct hues - a light green, a somewhat weak blue, and a well-developed yellow, the body of the meteor being of the latter colour. After an observation of two or three seconds - it might possibly be five seconds - this grand celestial object, having assumed the appearance of a pendant lamp, suddenly exploded...It was certainly one of the most brilliant objects of the kind we ever witnessed, and each congratulated the other upon the privilege of having beheld it.

The Journal added to this letter, saying:

We understand the same beautiful object was witnessed at Ipswich and elsewhere. At the former place a little fellow who observed it ran home and told his mother that "the moon had fallen down."

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O LANTERN STILL NEEDS SUPPORT! TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT IT...SHOW IT TO YOUR O
O LOCAL NEWSAGENT AND SUGGEST HE MIGHT STOCK IT...TAKE A COPY ALONG TO YOUR O
O NEAREST LIBRARY AND SUGGEST THAT THEY MIGHT LIKE TO TAKE OUT A SUBSCRIPTION O
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In this, our AERIAL PHENOMENA issue, Keith Williamson, BSIG's UFO research Officer, has sent us one or two UFO reports from the Group's files which we have not published before.

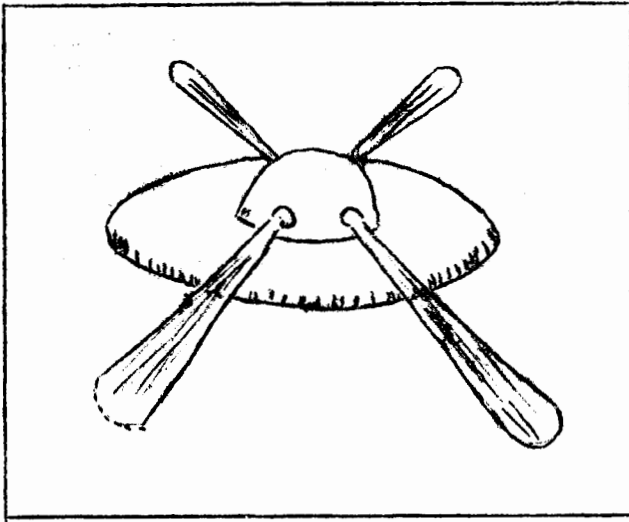
REPORT 1

The following is an account of a UFO experience which occurred in 1953. The witness was a member of the Royal Observer Corps, and held aircraft recognition certificates at the time of the sighting. The

event took place at Latimer Dam, Kessingland, East Suffolk during the winter months of 1953, and accounts of further sightings on the same night appeared in the Eastern Evening News the following day. The witnesses account follows:-

"At about 6.45 on a dark monday night, I was travelling from Wrentham to Kessing-
ton on a motorcycle along the old A12 road across Latimers Dam. Although I was
wearing a crash helmet and could only hear the sound of my motorcycle engine, I
was suddenly aware of some sort of atmospheric vibration. I can only describe this
as a low frequency hum or magnetic effect that could be felt. Looking upward to-
wards the sea, I saw four rays of light approaching. The two front rays appeared
to be shorter than the two at the rear, due no doubt to the movement of the object.

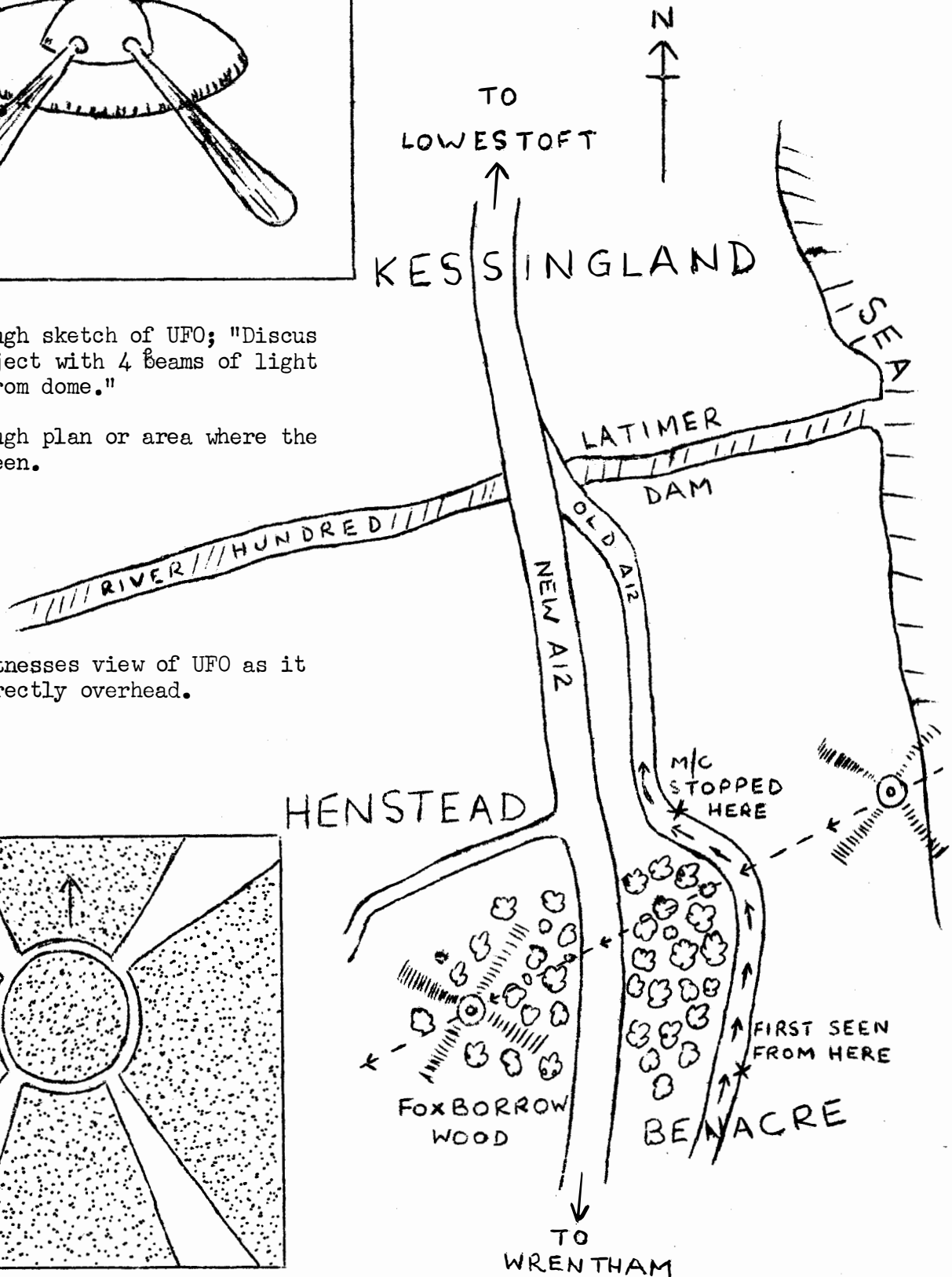
THE KESSINGLAND U.F.O.



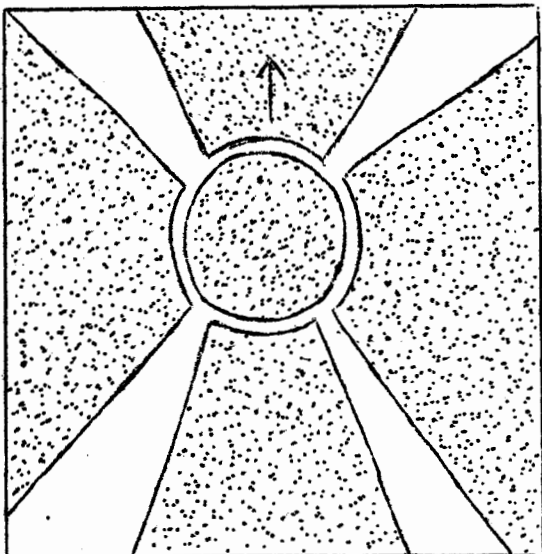
Above: Rough sketch of UFO; "Discus shaped object with 4 beams of light shining from dome."

Right: Rough plan or area where the UFO was seen.

All maps and drawings are based on originals made by the witness and now in the files of B.S.I.G.



Below: Witnesses view of UFO as it passed directly overhead.



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Moving forward one year in time, to 1954, we have this report from Great Yarmouth,
Norfolk. The Witnesses account follows:-

REPORT 2

"It was in September, Battle of Britain Day, 1954, at about II am, I was working on top of the scenic railway on the pleasure beach at the time. There was some cloud and a moderate north-westerly wind, I remember that because towards the jetty balloons were being released and were going out to sea in a south-easterly direction. I heard a jet engine, looked out to sea and saw a meteor jet going towards the north-east at about a thousand feet, then I saw this object come out of the clouds and stop. It just hovered, spinning, it seemed, round its own axis, changing its shape from a cigar to a disc. It was blue-grey in colour. For five minutes it was in that position then suddenly it was gone. I looked to the north and to my surprise it was hovering over the sea, then it was gone again. It must have moved a distance of approximately two miles in the time it takes to blink an eye. When I told people about it, they said it was a balloon. It must have been a very fast and large balloon to travel against the wind."

REPORT 2

"It was in September, Battle of Britain Day, 1954, at about 11 am, I was working on top of the scenic railway on the plea-

sure beach at the time. There was some cloud and a moderate north-westerly wind, I remember that because towards the jetty balloons were being released and were going out to sea in a south-easterly direction. I heard a jet engine, looked out to sea and saw a meteor jet going towards the north-east at about a thousand feet, then I saw this object come out of the clouds and stop. It just hovered, spinning, it seemed, round its own axis, changing its shape from a cigar to a disc. It was blue-grey in colour. For five minutes it was in that position then suddenly it was gone. I looked to the north and to my surprise it was hovering over the sea, then it was gone again. It must have moved a distance of approximately two miles in the time it takes to blink an eye. When I told people about it, they said it was a balloon. It must have been a very fast and large balloon to travel against the wind."

MAN SEES 'BALL OF FLAME'

"I was walking from my house in Redgate," said Captain Barlow, "When I saw it coming over the river side of town and flying towards Swaffham. It had a long tail of flame and was going across the sky like a missile or rocket."

DISAPPEARED

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*The 'Lowestoft Journal' of January 6th, carried a full page article about the activities of the BSIG and Lantern.

* * COMMENT * *

Following my series (as yet unfinished) articles on Black Shuck, I received a very interesting (and complimentary) letter from Mr. J. B. Delair, Research Programme Co-ordinator & Librarian of CONTACT(UK), and also Editor of the Groups magazine 'AWARENESS'. Mr. Delair's letter was so interesting that I have decided to publish it here (with his permission) as it forms such a good 'bridge' between what has gone before and the contents of this edition of LANTERN. - I.A.W.Bunn.

Mr. Delair writes:-

"...I have been especially interested in your informative article (issues 18-20 of Lantern) on BLACK SHUCK. Admittedly I was only dimly aware of the existence of these East Anglian manifestations, but on reading your intriguing account I immediately perceive some parallels with the UFO mystery, and, possibly, even an interconnection between the two. I mention some of these below, as it occurs to me that they may so far have escaped your own notice, and might prove to be fertile fields for further investigation; certainly your own researches show what can be done over a relatively short period of time,

Firstly, it may be wrong to study the BLACK SHUCK stories in isolation, for there are I believe other regions where comparable black phantom dogs manifest with fair regularity, as on the highways around Tavistock in Devon. As you say, such occurrences used to be often associated with the 'Devil'. I am no authority on phantom or pseudo-phantom animals, but seem to recall having read somewhere or other in the past other accounts of similar ghosltly canines in Kent and Herefordshire. Probably you know more about all these than I do. Thus BLACK SHUCK might be best studied in relation to all phantom dog yarns.

Secondly, you mention that some BLACK SHUCK stories refer to sulphur-like smells and to scorching or other scarring of the ground. Some of the other dog stories I have just alluded to involve mystery, even gigantic, dog spore or footprints and, like BLACK SHUCK, seem impervious to human aggression and can disappear seemingly at will.

Thirdly, the characteristics you list for BLACK SHUCK are exactly paralleled by UFOs, which frequently disappear and appear into and from nowhere, sometimes through solid objects (walls, fences, trees); are often seen near, on, or even in bodies of water, and occasionally disgorge occupants alleged to have (in at least two instances) a great desire to possess terrestrial dogs. I also have accounts on file here of mystery 'black dogs' coming out of a UFO hovering low over a churchyard in the USA - part of the well-known 1973 world-wide UFO wave.

Fourthly, there is increasing evidence to conclude that the mysterious 'Manimals' (i.e., the Sasquatch, Bigfoot, Yeti-type creatures) are connected somehow with UFOs. Like UFOs and the phantom dogs, they come and go very mysteriously, often accompanied by acrid and other horrible smells (sulphur-like?), leave footprints, make weird sounds, and so far appear to be impervious to bullets and other missiles. They often move quite silently. UFOs do this too, and so do many mystery dogs.

Few people will withhold agreement from the assertion that UFOs represent but the tip of some much larger iceberg, presently still mostly hidden from us. Whoever, or whatever, lies behind it is part of some other 'realm' that logically must support or consist of a whole range of beings, objects, scenarios, etc., that to us appear to be most often ghostly, but occasionally tangible - or at least tangible enough to leave visible and recordable traces on good old solid Earth. Judged from the similarities of character just summarised, BLACK SHUCK, UFOs, and perhaps other mystery beings, such as the Surrey Puma, and the Sasquatch-type creatures, all represent different facets of a far larger whole. Certainly the traceable similarities are such that a theory linking them together is not too aberrant. Indeed, I believe this has already

+ + + + +
 + huntings' original theories, I find it worth the money. At the moment, Watkins +
 + is proving to be something of the 'underdog', in that the alignment of ancient +
 + sites is currently being plagued by researchers dabbling in 'earth magic' ideas. +
 + I find it refreshing to be able to read again the thoughts of someone who ima- +
 + gined that ley lines were simply prehistoric trackways, for getting a man from +
 + one place to another. Poor chap! He never knew quite what he was starting. +
 + Now, if someone reprinted his 'Early British Trackways' I'd really be happy. +
 + + + + + M.W.Burgess + + + + +

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This next report is interesting in
 that the object was observed by a heli-
 copter pilot whilst in flight. Although
 we have no more information concerning

REPORT 3

this case, that which is available is very precise, as one would expect from a trained
 observer. The witness his report through us on a Ministry of Defence UFO report form,
 issued by the Board of trade (possibly in 1969). All the questions appearing on the
 MoD form are reproduced here, together with the witnesses replies:

REPORT OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT.

- A. Date, time and duration of sighting - local times to be quoted.
 "12th February, 1973, at 2130 gmt. Duration - 30 seconds."
- B. Description of Object - Number of objects, size, shape, colours, brightness, sound, smell etc.
 "No definite shape visible as it was night. Showing two flashing white lights one on top of the other. No navigation lights showing."
- C. Exact position of observer -Geographical location, indoors or outdoors, station-ary or moving.
 "53 degrees, 25 minutes North; 01 degrees, 22 minutes East. Flying a track of 315 degrees magnetic."
- D. How observed - Naked eye, binoculars, other optical device, still or movie camera.
 "Naked eye."
- E. Direction in which object was first seen - a landmark may be more useful than a badly estimated bearing.
 "315 degrees magnetic from us."
- F. Angular elevation of object - Estimated heights are unreliable.
 "We were flying at 1000 feet, the UFO was 1500 feet above us."
- G. Distance of object from observer - By reference to a known landmark wherever possible.
 "Estimated at two nautical miles ahead of us."
- H. Movements of object - Changes if E, F or G may be of more use than estimates of course and speed.
 "It was tracking 315 degrees magnetic quite slowly towards us. It then appeared to hover for about three seconds then disappear at a high speed climbing away rapidly."
- J. Meteorological conditions during observations - moving clouds, haze, mist etc.
 "Wind; 270/35. Cloud; 1/8 cu 4000 feet. Visibility; 15 nms +".
- K. Nearby objects - Telephone or high voltage lines, reservoir, lake or dam, swamp or marsh, high buildings, tall chimneys, steeples, spires, TV or radio masts, airfields, generating plants, factories, pits or other sites with floodlights or other lighting.
 "None."
- L. To whom reported - Police, military organisations, the press etc.
- M. Name address of informant.
 (These are on BSIG files).